IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (original): A raw material composition for preparing a sintered body of aluminum titanate, the composition comprising:

(i) 100 parts by weight of a mixture comprising 40 to 50 mol% of TiO_2 and 60 to 50 mol% of Al_2O_3,

(ii) 1 to 10 parts by weight of alkali feldspar represented by the formula: $(Na_xK_{1-x})AlSi_3O_8$ $(0 \leq x \leq 1)$, and

(iii) 1 to 10 parts by weight of at least one Mg-containing component selected from the group consisting of a Mg-containing oxide with spinel structure, $MgCO_3$ and MgO.

Claim 2 (original): The raw material composition for preparing a sintered body of aluminum titanate according to claim 1, wherein the alkali feldspar has such a composition that x in the formula: $(Na_xK_{1-x})AlSi_3O_8$ is in the range of $(0 \leq x \leq 1)$.

Claim 3 (original): The raw material composition for preparing a sintered body of aluminum titanate according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the molar ratio of Si in the alkali feldspar to Mg in the Mg-containing component is in the range of Si:Mg = 0.9:1 to 1.1:1.

Claim 4 (original): A process for preparing a sintered body of aluminum titanate, the process comprising sintering a formed product at a temperature of 1300 to 1700°C

the formed product being prepared from a raw material composition for preparing

a sintered body of aluminum titanate comprising:

(i) 100 parts by weight of a mixture comprising 40 to 50 mol% of TiO_2 and 60 to 50 mol% of Al_2O_3,

(ii) 1 to 10 parts by weight of an alkali feldspar represented by the formula: $(Na_xK_{1-x})AlSi_3O_8$ $(0 \leq x \leq 1)$, and

(iii) 1 to 10 parts by weight of at least one Mg-containing component selected from the group consisting of a Mg-containing oxide with spinel structure, $MgCO_3$ and MgO.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A sintered alloy body of aluminum titanate which is obtainable by the process ~~of claim 4~~ comprising sintering a formed product at a temperature of 1300 to 1700°C,

the formed product being prepared from a raw material composition for preparing a sintered body of aluminum titanate comprising:

(i) 100 parts by weight of a mixture comprising 40 to 50 mol% of TiO_2 and 60 top 50 mol% Al_2O_3,

(ii) 1 to 10 parts by weight of an alkali feldspar represented by the formula:$(Na_xK_{1-x})AlSi_3O_8$ $(0 \leq x \leq 1)$, and

(iii) 1 to 10 parts by weight of at least one Mg-containing component selected from the group consisting of a Mg-containing oxide with spinel structure, $MgCO_3$ and MgO, and the molar ratio of Si in the alkali feldspar to Mg in the Mg-containing component being in the range of Si:Mg = 0.9:1 to 1.1:1.